



RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM



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For Immediate Release

Riverside Metropolitan Museum

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Event: Riverside Metropolitan Museum Hosts Cheech Marin's "The Chicano Collection/La Colección Chicana"

Date: September 8, 2005 – January 15, 2006

Place: Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue

**CHEECH MARIN'S "THE CHICANO COLLECTION/LA COLECCIÓN CHICANA" EXHIBIT
ON VIEW AT RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2006**

Images of paintings by 26 prominent Chicano artists depicting urban life and the Chicano experience between 1969 and 2001 will be on view in "The Chicano Collection / La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples" at Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Ave., September 8 through January 15, 2006.

The paintings are primarily from actor and art collector Cheech Marin's collection, which is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S., and include works by Carlos Almaraz, Frank Romero, Patssi Valdez, Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Leo Limón, Margaret García, and Wayne Alaniz Healy. Most of the 26 artists are from Southern California.

The exhibition is part of a project spearheaded by Marin that created high-quality digital reproductions (gicleés) of the original paintings and donated the gicleés to 50 major U.S. art museums and universities. The project is designed to advance Chicano art as a recognized school of American art and increase public accessibility to this work in cities nationwide. "Chicano art is American art. My goal is to bring the term 'Chicano' to the forefront of the art world," said Marin. "Using the most advanced technology available today, we are creating these important artistic expressions of the American experience as 'time capsules' to embed into top U.S. art collections and to expose them to the widest audience possible."

"The Riverside Metropolitan Museum is privileged to host this premiere exhibition of Chicano art," said Dr. Vince Moses, Executive Director. "We are pleased that we will be able to place this exhibit within the context of our city's own history and culture through our accompanying exhibition, 'Nuestra Comunidad: 1920-1980', which will be on view at the same time."

"Nuestra Comunidad (Our Community): 1920-1980" explores the social dynamics surrounding the building of Riverside's Mexican American community and examines the contributions of tough, risk-taking individuals to the life and identity of the City of Riverside. In the wake of the Mexican Revolution, two principal barrio colonias, or Mexican American colonies, took root in Riverside. Colonia Park on Riverside's Eastside, and Colonia Casa Blanca about six miles south of the original Mile Square, served as home to most of the newcomers. Between 1917 and 1950, these settlements of immigrants became permanent. Their peoples vigorously built families, social organizations, churches, and other marks of community, in spite of segregation from the dominant Anglo culture. "Nuestra Comunidad" analyzes the cycles of work, family, social life, and religion that sustained the first two or three generations of Riverside's Colonia residents. "Nuestra Comunidad (Our Community): 1920-1980" provides a unique look at what factors and events contributed to the movement of Chicano art, including the works featured in "The Chicano Collection".

Both exhibitions will be on view to the public at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Tuesday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM; Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM; and Sunday, 11 AM-5 PM. Admission is free (donations of \$3 per adult and \$1 per child are suggested).



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Free Public Events: A series of free public events surrounding 'The Chicano Collection' and 'Nuestra Comunidad' are scheduled to take place between September-November. The exhibitions will open to the public on September 8th at 7:00 pm during a lively celebration featuring Ballet Folklórico de Riverside, mariachi music, and demonstrations by local artists. A free First Sunday program will take place on October 2 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Metropolitan Museum. During First Sunday, families will have an opportunity to work with Cosme Cordova of Division 9 Gallery to create a community art project. Other activities will include cultural demonstrations and art-making activities.

Sponsors: Both the development and the presentation of "The Chicano Collection" were made possible through the generosity of Bank of America and Farmers Insurance. The presentation of the exhibition in Riverside is also supported by the Los Angeles Times and Starbucks Coffee, Affiliated Computer Services, Printing Partners, the Riverside Downtown Partnership, and the City of Riverside. Media partners are CBS2-KCAL 9, La Prensa, and Univision 34. Riverside Metropolitan Museum community partners include Division 9 Gallery and University of California, Riverside.

As stewards of regional heritage, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum promotes an inclusive and livable community by providing dynamic hands-on family oriented programs and exhibits to encourage greater understanding and public access to the community's rich environmental and cultural heritage. Celebrating its 80th anniversary, the Museum is working with the community to expand and modernize. In light of this new initiative the Museum has been renamed The Riverside Metropolitan Museum and eagerly embraces its expanded role and responsibilities in the community.

For information on the exhibition, "Nuestra Comunidad (Our Community): 1920-1980" and ancillary public programs at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, call Dr. Vince Moses, Museum Director, at (951) 826-5273 or visit www.riversideca.gov/museum. To learn more about "The Chicano Collection", call Melissa Richardson Banks of CauseConnect at (213) 972-0884 or visit www.thechicanocollection.net.

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